

AN ACT
RELATING TO HEALTH CARE FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS, INCLUDING
HOSPITAL INSPECTOR REQUIREMENTS AND DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE
AND PROVIDING PENALTIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

Section 1. Section 135B.9, Code 2009, is amended to read as follows:

**135B.9 Inspections and qualifications for hospital inspectors
— protection and advocacy agency investigations.**

1. The department shall make or cause to be made inspections as it deems necessary in order to determine compliance with applicable rules. Hospital inspectors shall meet the following qualifications:

a. Be free of conflicts of interest. A hospital inspector shall not participate in an inspection or complaint investigation of a hospital in which the inspector or a member of the inspector's immediate family works or has worked within the last two years. For purposes of this paragraph, "immediate family member" means a spouse; natural or adoptive parent, child, or sibling; or stepparent, stepchild, or stepsibling.

b. Complete a yearly conflict of interest disclosure statement.

c. Biennially, complete a minimum of ten hours of continuing education pertaining to hospital operations including but not limited to quality and process improvement standards, trauma system standards, and regulatory requirements.

2. In the state resource centers and state mental health institutes operated by the department of human services, the designated protection and advocacy agency as provided in [section 135C.2, subsection 4](#), shall have the authority to investigate all complaints of abuse and neglect of persons with developmental disabilities or mental illnesses if the complaints are reported to the protection and advocacy agency or if there is probable cause to believe that the abuse has occurred. Such authority shall include the examination of all records pertaining to the care provided to the residents and contact or interview with any resident, employee, or any other person who might have knowledge about the operation of the institution.

Sec. 2. Section 235E.2, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code Supplement 2009, is amended to read as follows:

a. The department shall receive and evaluate reports of dependent adult abuse in facilities and programs. The department shall inform the department of human services of such evaluations and dispositions ~~for inclusion in and those individuals who should be placed on the central registry for dependent adult abuse information~~ pursuant to [section 235B.5-235E.7](#). If the department believes the situation involves an immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare requiring immediate agency action to seek emergency placement on the central registry, the department may utilize emergency adjudicative proceedings pursuant to section 17A.18A.

Sec. 3. Section 235E.2, subsection 10, Code Supplement 2009, is amended to read as follows:

10. The department shall adopt rules which require facilities and programs to separate an alleged dependent adult abuser from a victim following an allegation of perpetration of dependent adult abuse and prior to the completion of an investigation of the allegation. Independent of the department's investigation, the facility or program employing the alleged dependent adult abuser shall conduct an investigation of the alleged dependent adult abuse and determine, what, if any, employment action should be taken including but not limited to placing the alleged dependent adult abuser on administrative leave or reassigning or

terminating the alleged dependent adult abuser as a result of the investigation by the facility or program. If the facility or program terminates the alleged dependent adult abuser as a result of the investigation by the facility or program or the alleged dependent adult abuser resigns, the alleged dependent adult abuser shall disclose such termination or investigation to any prospective facility or program employer. An alleged dependent adult abuser who fails to disclose such termination or investigation is guilty of a simple misdemeanor.

Sec. 4. Section 235E.2, subsection 12, Code Supplement 2009, is amended to read as follows:

12. An inspector of the department may enter any facility or program without a warrant and may examine all records pertaining to residents, employees, former employees, and the alleged dependent adult abuser. If upon entry, the inspector has knowledge of or learns during the course of an investigation that alleged dependent adult abuse is suspected or is being investigated, the inspector shall inform the facility or program that the inspector is investigating an alleged case of dependent adult abuse. An inspector of the department may contact or interview any resident, employee, former employee, or any other person who might have knowledge about the alleged dependent adult abuse. Prior to the interview, the department shall provide written notification to the person under investigation for dependent adult abuse that the person is under investigation for dependent adult abuse, the nature of the abuse being investigated, the possible civil administrative consequences of founded abuse, the requirement that the department forward a report to law enforcement if the department's investigation reveals a potential criminal offense, that the person has the right to retain legal counsel at the person's expense and may choose to have legal counsel, union representation, or any other desired representative employed by the facility present during the interview, and the fact that the person has the right to decline to be interviewed or to terminate an interview at any time. The person under investigation shall inform the department of the representatives desired to be present during the interview and not delay the interview by more than five working days to make arrangements for the person's representatives to be present at the interview. Any employer representative shall be informed of the requirement to maintain strict confidentiality and of the prohibition against redissemination of such information

pursuant to chapter 235B. At the interview, the department shall request and the alleged dependent adult abuser shall provide the alleged dependent adult abuser's most current contact information to facilitate provision of the findings to the alleged dependent adult abuser. An inspector may take or cause to be taken photographs of the dependent adult abuse victim and the vicinity involved. The department shall obtain consent from the dependent adult abuse victim or guardian or other person with a power of attorney over the dependent adult abuse victim prior to taking photographs of the dependent adult abuse victim.

Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 235E.6 Dependent adult abuse finding — notification to employer and employee.

Upon a finding of founded dependent adult abuse by a caretaker, the department shall provide written notification of the department's findings to the caretaker and the caretaker's employer. In addition, the written notification shall detail the consequences of placement on the central abuse registry, the caretaker's appeal rights, and include a separate appeal request form. The written appeal request form shall clearly set forth that the caretaker shall not be placed on the central abuse registry until final agency action is taken if an appeal is filed within fifteen days.

Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 235E.7 Appeal process — dependent adult abuse.

1. If a request for an appeal is filed within fifteen days of the issuance of the written notification of a finding of dependent adult abuse, the department shall not place the caretaker on the central abuse registry until final agency action is taken. For a request for an appeal filed within fifteen days of the issuance of the written notification of the finding, the contested case hearing shall be held within sixty days of the request. The caretaker may extend the hearing timeframe by thirty days one time. Additional requests for an extension must be agreed upon by all parties or for good cause. The administrative law judge's proposed decision shall be issued within thirty days of the contested case hearing. If further review of the decision is not requested before the proposed decision becomes final, the proposed decision shall be deemed final agency action. If further review is requested, the department's final agency action shall occur within thirty days of the issuance of the administrative law judge's proposed decision. Upon final agency action, further appeal rights

shall be governed by chapter 17A.

2. If a caretaker fails to request an appeal within fifteen days, the caretaker shall have sixty days from the issuance of the written notification of the abuse findings to file an appeal pursuant to chapter 17A. However, the caretaker's name shall be placed on the central abuse registry pending the outcome of the appeal.

3. If the caretaker requests an appeal within fifteen days, the caretaker may waive the expedited hearing under subsection 1 to proceed under chapter 17A, but the caretaker's name shall be placed on the central abuse registry pending the outcome of the appeal.

Sec. 7. STUDY. The legislative council is requested to establish an interim study committee to evaluate due process requirements relating to child abuse and dependent adult abuse under Code chapters 235A and 235B. The committee shall issue a report of its recommendations to the general assembly by January 15, 2011.

JOHN P. KIBBIE
President of the Senate

PATRICK J. MURPHY
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that this bill originated in the Senate and is known as Senate File 2333, Eighty-third General Assembly.

MICHAEL E. MARSHALL
Secretary of the Senate

Approved _____, 2010

CHESTER J. CULVER
Governor